

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-09 FRB-01
INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
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O R 161420Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 5744
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS 0753

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 07685

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR METCALF; TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OECD
SUBJECT: TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TUAC) REQUEST
FOR CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO ECONOMIC SUMMIT

1. ON MARCH 17 HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WILL CONSIDER
TUAC REQUEST FOR LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING TO PRESENT
TO THE OECD POLICY STATEMENTS ON KEY ECONOMIC ISSUES.
TUAC HAS PROPOSED MAY 5 FOR SUCH A MEETING AND EX-
PRESSED HOPE THAT HEADS OF DELEGATIONS BE
ASSISTED BY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS. OECD
SECRETARIAT HAS ASKED OECD EPC CHAIRMAN SIR DOUGLAS
ALLEN IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEND.
2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF VAN LENNEP'S LETTER OF MARCH
14 TO AMBASSADOR TURNER.
BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,
APPROXIMATELY THREE OR FOUR WEEKS AGO, THE SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION LEARNED THAT THE TRADE UNION MOVE-
MENTS REPRESENTED BY THE TUAC INTENDED TO APPROACH THE
OECD WITH A REQUEST FOR A PLENARY CONSULTATION ON ECO-
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NOMIC POLICY AND THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE SHORT-
TERM, TO BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THIS INTENTION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN A LETTER DATED
2ND MARCH, 1977, FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUAC
TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE,
SETTING FORTH A FORMAL REQUEST FOR ARRANGEMENTS TO BE

MADE FOR A CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMITTEE IN THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL OR EARLY MAY. A TRANSLATED COPY OF MR. BERNARD'S LETTER IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

A SMALL TEAM OF THE TUAC HAS SINCE BEEN TO SEE MR. WOOTTON, AND ADVISED HIM OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH GO FURTHER THAN THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN MR. BERNARD'S LETTER. THE MAIN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED TO TUAC ARE IN FACT EAGER TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF PRESENTING IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO THE OECD A NUMBER OF POLICY STATEMENTS SETTING FORTH THEIR VIEWS ON THE SALIENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF TODAY. FOR THIS REASON, THE TUAC HAS MADE A PROPOSAL FOR AN OFFICIAL CONSULTATION TO TAKE PLACE IN THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY, 5TH MAY, 1977, AT THE LEVEL OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE LEVEL OF TRADE UNION REPRESENTATION AT THIS MEETING WOULD BE THAT OF SENIOR RESPONSIBLE LABOR OFFICIALS - AND THE TUAC SPOKESMEN HAVE INSISTED THAT IT WOULD, IN THEIR VIEW, BE DESIRABLE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE BE ASSISTED BY HIGH OFFICIALS FROM THE CAPITALS INVOLVED; EITHER THE DELEGATES WHO NORMALLY FOLLOW THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE OR OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLICY-MAKING DECISIONS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD.

IT WAS ALSO INDICATED THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY FOUR TUAC DOCUMENTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE OF THE CONSULTATION AND THAT IT WAS THEIR INTENTION TO PUBLISH THE POLICY STATEMENTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE JOINT MEETING.
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THEY WOULD RELATE TO SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM QUESTIONS CONCERNING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT, AND ALSO TO CONNECTED MATTERS, SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND TRADE RELATIONS.

IT WAS POINTED OUT TO THE TUAC GENERAL SECRETARY THAT IT WOULD OF COURSE BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO BRING THE MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE TO PARIS BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION OF THIS COMMITTEE, SCHEDULED FOR 14TH AND 15TH JUNE.

I THINK THIS SUBJECT NEEDS THOROUGH REFLECTION, AND I PROPOSE THAT WE DISCUSS THE MATTER DURING A MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE." END TEXT.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED MARCH 2 FROM TUAC SECRETARY GENERAL HENRI BERNARD TO CHAIRMAN OF THE EPC. BEGIN TEXT: "SIR, TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED TO THE TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE

OECD (TUAC) HAVE THE HONOR TO EARNESTLY REQUEST A

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CONSULTATION WITH THE OECD ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE.

THIS CONSULTATION WOULD BEAR ON ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT
POLICY IN THE SHORT-TERM. IN ORDER TO ENSURE ITS
EFFICACY, IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE NEXT MINISTER-
IAL MEETING OF THE OECD. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE EITHER
19TH APRIL OR 3RD MAY 1977. THE BUREAU OF THE MANPOWER
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE COULD ALSO BE INVITED."
END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: TOMORROW'S MEETING WILL BE FIRST DISCUS-
SION OF TUAC PROPOSAL. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE
CONTRARY, MISSION INTENDS TO SUPPORT TUAC REQUEST FOR
CONSULTATION WITH LIAISON COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT'S
INVITATION TO EPC CHAIRMAN. WE WILL LISTEN AND REPORT
ON POSITION OF OTHERS RE PARTICIPATION OF HIGH LEVEL
OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS OR MEMBERS EPC.

5. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REP. IRVING BROWN (CURRENTLY IN
US) TOLD MISSION OFFICER MARCH 11 THAT TRADE UNIONS'
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CONGRESS (TUC) GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY WROTE
AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY EXPLAINING THE PROPOSED
MEETING AND INVITING HIGH LEVEL AFL-CIO PARTICIPATION.
TURNER

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